

NOTES AND NEWS.

MAJOR CHARLES E. BENDIRE, U. S. A., one of the Founders, an Active Member, and a Councillor of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Jacksonville, Florida, February 4, 1897, of Brights' disease, at the age of 61 years. He left Washington only five days before he died, in the hope of finding relief in the milder climate of Florida. His death, though sudden, was not altogether unexpected.

Bendire's chief work is his well-known 'Life Histories of North American Birds,' the second volume of which was recently reviewed in this journal (*antea*, pp. 104-106), but for many years he was a frequent contributor to 'The Auk' and to other ornithological journals. His death is a sad loss — in truth an irreparable loss — to American ornithology, occurring, as it has, with his great work on North American Birds less than half completed.

Major Bendire was born in Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, April 27, 1836, and came to this country in 1852. He soon enlisted as a private in the U. S. Army, and was gradually promoted till he reached the rank of Captain, in the Cavalry service, in 1886, and was shortly after retired for disability. In 1890 he was brevetted Major for gallant services rendered in fighting Indians in Montana in 1877! His long period of military service in the remote parts of the West gave him exceptional facilities for prosecuting his ornithological studies, which he evidently utilized to the fullest extent. His immense collection of birds' eggs, gathered during his military wanderings, long since became the property of the U. S. National Museum, where their donor has held for some years the position of Honorary Curator of the Department of Oölogy. He by no means, however, restricted his interests to the nests and eggs of birds, but was in all respects a well-equipped ornithologist, intent on investigating for himself all questions touching the work he had in hand.

He was well-known through correspondence, if not personally, to all working ornithologists in America, and to many abroad, but only those who knew him personally can appreciate his sterling integrity, his hearty friendship, his sincerity and earnestness.

In accordance with a standing rule of the Union respecting deceased Active Members (see *Auk*, XII, p. 199), a special memorial of Major Bendire will be presented at the next meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, and published later in 'The Auk.'

HEINRICH GÄTKE, an Honorary Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home on the little island of Helgoland, on January 1, 1897, at the advanced age of nearly 84 years. He was an artist by profession, and visited Helgoland when twenty-three years of age for the purpose of making marine studies, and soon after was married there and made the island his life residence. He appears to have been early interested in birds, and soon after settling in Helgoland, he began to collect specimens and to make the observations on the migrations of birds, which have since made both Herr Gätke and the island of Helgoland famous in the annals of ornithology. Although he published many notes and minor papers on the birds of Helgoland, and on molting and color-change in birds, the ornithological results of his life work are comprised in his 'Vogelwarte Helgoland,' published in 1890 (see Auk, VIII, 1891, pp. 299, 300), and republished in English in 1895 (see Auk, XII, 1895, pp. 322-346, and XIII, 1896, pp. 137-153). As this work has already been noticed at length in this journal, further comment is not necessary in the present connection. Suffice it to say that while his observations, covering a period of fifty years, on the birds of Helgoland, and particularly on their migrations, are of the utmost value, his deductions and conclusions based thereon are not equally trustworthy, owing doubtless to the very limited extent of the area under observation and the lack of experience elsewhere. The following is from a recent sketch of Gätke by Mr. H. E. Dresser, published in 'The Zoologist' (March, 1897, p. 140). "Of very tall and commanding presence, with flowing hair and beard, . . . Gätke possessed an extremely genial and pleasant manner, and was an interesting companion. Always ready to impart information, he placed his notes most unreservedly at the disposal of any ornithologist who visited the island. . . . Although of German origin [he was "born at Pritzwalk, Mark Brandenburg"], he spoke and wrote English like an Englishman, and was in some respects even more English than German.

"Those who have known and learnt to appreciate his sterling worth will grieve deeply for him; but though he has gone his work remains, and his 'Vogelwarte Helgoland' will stand as a monument of industry and careful observation, carried on during a long and useful life. His intellect remained unimpaired to the last few days, and his end was a most peaceful one, carefully tended as he was by his devoted family."

CAPTAIN PLATTE M. THORNE, U. S. A., an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home in Rochester, N. Y., March 16, 1897, after a short illness from a complication of ailments, at the age of 59 years. He was born in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and was a son of Judge Thorne of that city. In 1861 he enlisted at the head of the One Hundred and Fiftieth New York Volunteers, and served with distinction throughout the Civil War, being at one time on the staff of General Slocum, and later Acting Inspector-General to General Sheridan. At the close of the war he was brevetted Lieutenant-Colonel for faithful and

meritorious service. Later he was placed in command of Company C, Twenty-second Infantry, U. S. A., and was stationed for many years at various remote posts in the West, Fort Thorne, N. M., being named for him. He was retired in April last for disability due to an accident while on duty at Fort Keogh. For many years he took an active interest in ornithology, becoming an Associate Member of the A. O. U. in 1885, and while well known to many of our leading ornithologists, through correspondence, he has published comparatively little. His chief paper is a 'List of Birds observed in the vicinity of Fort Keogh, Montana, from July, 1888, to September, 1892,' published in 'The Auk' in 1895, (XII, pp. 211-219). Previously he had observed and collected for six years at Fort Collins, Colorado, and in 1887 published 'Additions to Mr. Drew's List of the Birds of Colorado' (Auk, IV, 1887, pp. 264, 265). He was a careful, conscientious observer, and made a considerable collection of ornithological specimens, many of which have been generously loaned or presented to specialists for examination or study. A wife and six children survive him.

'THE OSPREY,' in its issue for March, makes the announcement that Dr. Elliott Coues has been secured as Associate Editor of this excellent magazine. In this connection the editor says: "Our endeavor will be to make 'The Osprey' as a popular monthly, what 'The Auk' is as a technical quarterly." The March number contains an excellent portrait of the late Major CHARLES E. BENDIRE, with a biographical notice of this eminent ornithologist by Dr. F. H. Knowlton; also a portrait of Louis Agasiz Fuertes, with a number of his recent bird paintings, and a short notice of his work by the Associate Editor. There are various papers and many notes of general interest, but unfortunately it includes one article, 'A Peculiar Hybrid', that might well have been omitted. With the new aid now secured doubtless such slips will not again occur, and the journal has doubtless before it an era of increased prosperity and usefulness.

AMONG new claimants for notice is the illustrated monthly 'Birds,' of which several numbers have appeared. It is published by the Nature Study Publication Company of Chicago, at the very low price, considering its character, of \$1.50 a year. It is profusely illustrated with colored plates done by "colored photography." The February number (No. 2) contains eleven quarto plates, representing the Blue Jay, Robin, Red-headed Woodpecker, Kingfisher, Red-winged Blackbird, and Cardinal, and four foreign birds, including a Mot-mot, Lory, etc. The illustrations are evidently photographed from mounted specimens, and thus show some defects in structural detail, but the colors are reproduced with surprising fidelity. The text is intended for popular reading, and some of the articles are written with special reference to young readers. The magazine should prove of much service to teachers in their

efforts to interest their pupils in birds, and seems especially worthy of commendation. We would suggest, however, that the publishers would do well to supply a table of contents with each number, to facilitate reference to the plates and articles.

WE HAVE before us No. 1 of Volume I of the 'Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club,' published at Grand Rapids, Mich., "in the interests of Ornithology in Michigan." The Editor-in-Chief is L. Whitney Watkins, Manchester, Mich. The 'Bulletin' is to be published quarterly, and will doubtless prove a great stimulus to ornithological activity in Michigan and adjoining States. The Club, of which it is the official organ, has also taken a strong stand in favor of the strict enforcement of the game and fish laws of the State, and for the protection of birds. This first number of the Bulletin is in every way a credit to the Michigan Ornithological Club, and indicates earnestness and ability on the part of its members.

'THE ZOÖLOGIST,' in entering upon its Fourth Series, passes under the editorial management of Mr. W. L. Distant, Mr. J. E. Harting, who has edited the magazine so ably for the last twenty years, being obliged to retire on account of the pressure of other demands upon his time. While the typographic appearance of its pages remains for the most part unchanged, its long familiar exterior has given place to a pictorial, and perhaps more artistic cover, differing radically in color and make-up from that to which we have so long been accustomed. The scope of the Magazine is extended to include anthropology, at least so far as it relates to 'Early Man in Britain.' The official reports of Natural History Societies, however, will be omitted. The new editor trusts that the pages of 'The Zoölogist' may still "be filled with facts and conclusions, whilst controversy and hypercriticism may thus be crowded out." Under its new editorial management we trust the journal will continue to achieve the success that its sterling merit in the past has gained for it.

THE first fasciculus of a new Italian quarto journal of ornithology — 'Avicula, Giornale ornitologico italiana' — bears date Feb. 1, 1897. As its name indicates, it is to be devoted especially to Italian ornithology. The first number, consisting of 28 pages, begins the publication of a list of living ornithologists. Among the 'Notiziario' we are pleased to see the announcement of the formation of a society at Trieste for the protection of birds. In no country, perhaps, is there a greater need for such societies than in Italy. The journal is published at Siena, under the editorship of Sigismondo Brogi, with whom are associated as honorary editors Professor Enrico Hillyer Giglioli and Count Tommaso Salvadori, and numerous 'collaborators.'

A PROSPECTUS of a work entitled 'The Birds of Celebes and the Neighboring Islands,' by A. B. Meyer and L. W. Wigglesworth, has

been issued by R. Friedländer & Sohn of Berlin. About 350 species will be treated in two quarto volumes, with about 50 colored plates, and maps illustrating geographical distribution. The work is announced to appear during 1897. Subscription price, for the complete work, 10£.

MR. W. E. CLYDE TODD of the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has in course of preparation a work on the birds of the western half of Pennsylvania, which work will discuss in detail their geographic distribution and migration within that section, as well as these subjects in general. That the work may be complete he needs the assistance of every reliable ornithologist and oölogist now residing in the section in question, or who has any notes, however fragmentary, on the birds thereof. He would be greatly obliged if every such person not already in correspondence with him would write him at once, feeling sure that such correspondence would be mutually helpful.

THE recently organized UNITED ORNITHOLOGISTS OF MAINE has elected the following officers for 1897: President, Arthur H. Norton, Westbrook, Me.; Vice President, Ora W. Knight, 384 Hammond St., Bangor, Me.; Secretary-Treasurer, Wm. L. Powers, Gardiner, Me. The object of this Society is to "encourage a systematic study of the Avifauna of the State" of Maine. The Society has already entered vigorously upon the preparation of a list of the birds of the State, showing their distribution by counties. An excellent report on the ornithology of Maine will doubtless result from this timely effort.

THE date of the organization of the Massachusetts Audubon Society is given in the report of the A. O. U. Committee on Bird Protection as 1886; it should be 1896. The first member was enrolled February 10, 1896, and on the first anniversary of the Society it had 1280 members, and is now growing very rapidly.

An 'Audubon Society of the State of New York' was organized in February, 1897, and is working in coöperation with the American Museum of Natural History. Mr. Morris K. Jesup, the President of the American Museum, is also the President of the New York Audubon Society. Miss Emma H. Lockwood, 243 W. 75th St., New York City, is the Secretary-Treasurer. All correspondence relative to bird protection in New York State should be addressed to her. Circulars explaining the objects of the Society and applications for membership may be obtained from the Secretary.

There is a growing sentiment for the protection of birds in various portions of the country, which will no doubt result in the formation of Audubon Societies in other States, and also in the founding of 'Bird Day' in the schools.

The Light-House Board, Washington, D. C., in response to a request of the A. O. U. Committee, has issued orders prohibiting the egg traffic on the Farallone Islands, California.

Mrs. Louise M. Stephenson, of Helena, Arkansas, who is doing very important work in that State, has been added to the A. O. U. Committee on Protection of Birds. Mrs. Stephenson has for some months contributed weekly articles on 'Bird Day in Schools' and 'Why Should We Protect Our Birds?' to two of the most widely read papers of Arkansas.

The Chairman of the A. O. U. Committee on Protection of North American Birds will be glad to hear from the readers of 'The Auk' regarding the protection of birds in their localities, and earnestly urges the formation of Audubon Societies. Suggestions as to the formation of such societies, and kindred work will be cheerfully furnished on request.—WILLIAM DUTCHER, *Chairman, A. O. U. Committee on Bird Protection.*

THE following ERRATA in the last (January) number of 'The Auk' require correction.

Page 35, 7 lines from bottom, for *continued* read *combined*.

" 36, under figure in text, for *near A* read *near B*.

" 36, 6 lines from bottom, for *fig. 1* read *fig. 2*.

" 37, note 1, before *Feathers from Skins* omit *Cast-off*.

" 38, Explanation of Fig. 1, for *No. 4396* read *No. 4397*.

" 38, Explanation of Fig. 2, for *near B fig. 1* read *near A fig. 1*.

" 38, last line, after *obj.* insert *2mm. oil imm.*

" 39, next to last line, for *C fig. 3* read *C fig. 4*.

" 118, last line, for *Cf. SALVADORI* read *Cf. ALLEN, Auk, XIII, 1896,*
244.

" 119, near bottom, for *375c* read *375d*.

" 123, line 8 from bottom, for 97 read 96.

" 125, line 15 from top, for BONAP. read (BONAP.).

" 125, line 17 from top, for A. O. U. COMM. MS. read FAXON, Auk,
XIII, 1896, 215.

" 129, after line 2 from top, insert

GENUS **EMBERNAGRA** LESSON, p. 245. This becomes

" 131, line 5 from top, for (LATH.) read (GMEL.).

" 131, line 15 from top, for WILS. read (WILS.).